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An Argonaut of the Roaring Fork

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It may be of some passing interest to the present generation to sketch a record of the first trip made by wagon into the Roaring Fork Valley from the Atlantic slope of the Sierra Madre Range of mountains bounding the Arkansas Valley to the west, and accomplished after a dreary and heart-breaking experience of nearly three months' duration.

The northwest portion of the state lying beyond this range, prior to 1880, constituted the Ute Indian Reservation, which extended southward to the northern boundary of Ouray County and included the Cantonment located on the Uncompahgre River about twenty-five miles south of the present town of Montrose. The agency for the northern tribes was established at Meeker on the White River and now the county seat of Rio Blanco County. It will be recalled that in 1879 the northern Utes went on the warpath, whereupon a troop of Federal cavalry under Major Thornburg was hastily dispatched to Meeker. The expedition met with a severe reverse, Meeker was massacred, and his wife and daughter made prisoners, shortly after which terms of peace were arranged through the mediation of Chief Ouray.

This revolt was almost immediately succeeded by the negotiation of a treaty between the Government and the Ute tribes, whereby the Indian title was extinguished and the vast domain of northwest Colorado was thrown open for exploration and settlement. The whites were, as usual, too impatient to await the final negotiation of the treaty, but, assuming its certainty in the near future, they began in the spring of 1880 to infest the headwaters of most of the tributaries of the Grand or Colorado River just across the summit of the range, from whence they rapidly descended these streams into the timbered regions lying along the slopes of the canyons.

In the early summer of 1880, rumors traveled across the range into Leadville and other settled portions of the Arkansas Valley and beyond, of fabulous discoveries of veins and deposits of silver and gold, and giving promise of large and early returns as soon as

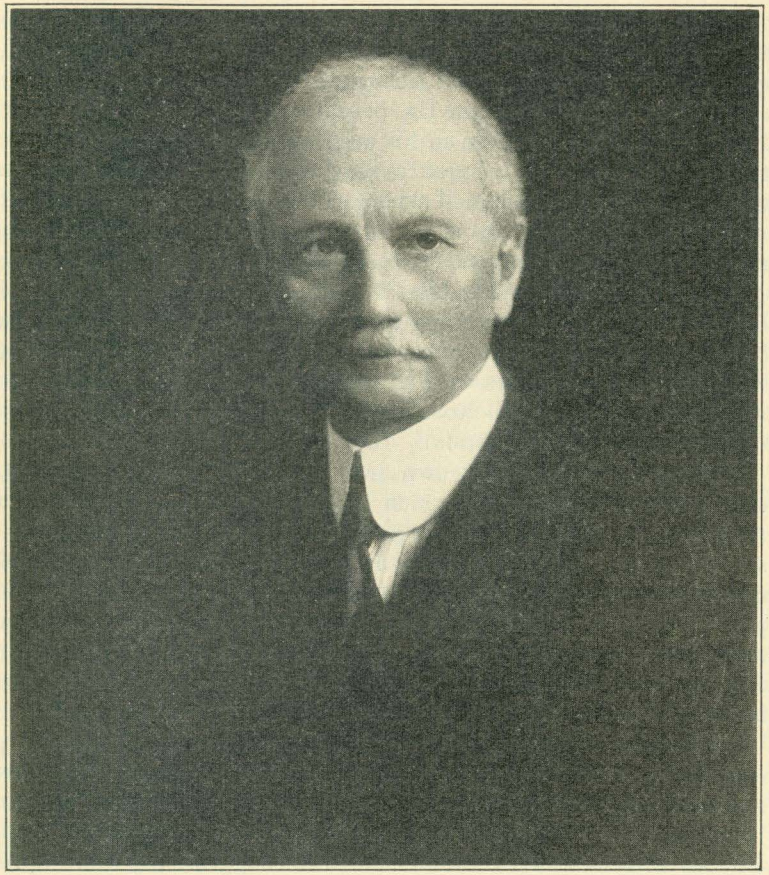
*Senator Thomas has served Colorado with distinction both as Governor and as United States Senator.—Ed.

communities could be established and roads constructed across the range, thus making them available. The first camp in the Roaring Fork watershed was Ashcroft, whose early promise of mineral wealth proved disappointing.

Such rumors then, as before and since, aroused the interest of a large proportion of the people, who determined with the opening of the summer to cross the range and avail themselves of the opportunity for securing wealth by the simple process of locating and developing valuable mining claims. By the middle of May the pilgrimages for the new Promised Land began to materialize. These, however, were made on foot or horseback with jack trains for transporting supplies. The experiences, even with this simple equipment, were for the most part severe, and the obstacles were so difficult to overcome that many lost heart and returned, while those persisting encountered hardships of the most incredible character and occasionally lost their equipment. As usual, the picture had been vastly over-painted, as rumors traveling eastward gained exaggeration with repetition, and the new arrivals, instead of finding another El Dorado awaiting their arrival, were compelled in the struggle for existence to spread over unexplored regions in the search for other and bigger treasures. A few of them, as usual, were successful; the majority, as usual, organized towns, homesteaded agricultural lands and in a few years established the beginnings of community life up and down the fertile valleys of the creeks and rivers interspersing that part of the Commonwealth.

At this time there dwelt in Black Hawk a prosperous merchant named Henry P. Cowenhoven. He had pioneered his way in 1849 to California and from thence across the country to Gilpin County, Colorado. He was a local merchant dealing in miscellaneous supplies such as were demanded by a western mining community. He was esteemed and highly respected by his neighbors, frugal in his habits and, by close attention to business for nearly twenty years, had amassed a small competency. His family consisted of himself, his wife, daughter and Mr. David R. C. Brown. This young gentleman hailed from New Brunswick, was somewhat impatient of his surroundings and was ready for adventure.

During the spring of 1880, Mr. Cowenhoven determined to dispose of his business at Black Hawk and try his fortune in some newer country possibly offering better opportunities for getting ahead in the world. Being encouraged to this step by Mr. Brown, he disposed of his business and delivered immediate possession to the purchaser. Mr. Brown was at once dispatched to Denver to secure an outfit of two wagons, four mules and harness, and to hire at least one man to accompany the family as a man of all work. These wagons were driven to Black Hawk, and loaded with household furniture, provisions, etc., and on or about June 5, 1880 they left Black Hawk en route to nowhere in particular, but with Arizona in mind as a possible objective. Bergen Park, now in the heart of Denver's Mountain Parks, was their first camping point, and from thence they traveled to Como by easy stages. This was then a coal mining town, belonging to the South Park Railroad Company and under active development. Over 350 Chinamen among other employees were upon the company payroll. Mr. Cowenhoven there collected a considerable sum of money due him from a former Gilpin County neighbor and after a five day halt the little party left for Leadville via Fairplay and Mosquito Pass, stopping again for four days, from whence they proceeded to Twin Lakes, again halting for a few days before proceeding southward.



DAVID R. C. BROWN
(From a recent photograph)

While at Twin Lakes, an incident occurred which definitely fixed the objective of the trek. On the third day of this halt, a man named Blodgett arrived riding a horse and leading a pack mule and bound west. This was the prospector's customary equipment. Brown invited him to join in his evening meal. This also was a custom of the country and, so far as the memory of man goes backward, no prospector ever declined when bidden to break bread with the wayside stranger, during which interval the two would reveal their names and recount experiences and prospects.

Brown replied to Blodgett's query concerning his destination by saying his party might go to Arizona. Blodgett said this was both foolish and hazardous because the Indians there were on the warpath, and New Mexico was no better. He then asked Brown why he didn't go to the Roaring Fork Country across the range to the west from Twin Lakes.

Blodgett then gave Brown an exaggerated and highly fanciful description of that region which he had visited and whence he was then bound. He fortified his account of its marvelous mineral resources by producing specimens of gold, silver and lead bearing ores from his capacious pockets, all of which he claimed to have personally obtained from veins and ledges previously discovered and under development, with great stretches of unoccupied territory equally valuable and available to whomsoever would go over there and locate it.

Blodgett's descriptions and assurances proved about one per cent fact and the rest imagination. Indeed it was altogether probable that Blodgett's specimens never saw the Roaring Fork until he transported them over the range and down the valley to Aspen. But he converted Mr. Cowenhoven to his suggestions, who inquired of him how the land of promise could be reached with teams and wagons.

Blodgett told him that it was impossible to negotiate Independence Pass to the west of the Lakes with anything more formidable than a pack mule, but he had been told that an old government road had been constructed some years before from Buena Vista up the Cottonwood and down into the Taylor Park country west of the range. He also said that a man named McFarlane (afterwards sheriff of Pitkin County for many years) with a party of five men had recently gone to the Roaring Fork by that route. McFarlane had also taken a water wheel and a stock of provisions over with him but how he made his way over the Pass by following up the Taylor River Blodgett did not know. He then privately assured Cowenhoven that he could not make the journey through with only the two men he had hired for the purpose.

Blodgett's opinion of the men's efficiency, however, proved

wrong. They stayed with the party through to the end and proved staunch and reliable at all times. It is to be regretted that the writer is unable to inscribe their names in this record of the journey.

The morning after Blodgett's breezy interview, the Cowenhoven party broke camp for Buena Vista, where they learned that McFarlane had preceded them by ten days. They halted for the day at Cottonwood Springs at the foot of the range before evening. The next evening they reached the top of the pass after a continuous and exhausting day of toil. This part of the journey was over what Blodgett called a government road. The construction was of the rudest sort, made some years before and wholly innocent of any attempt at repair. The travel was so infrequent that the tracks of one vehicle would generally be obliterated before another came along, and any man going farther must select his own route of descent. Fortunately, our travelers were not the only adventurers now having the mind to invade the Roaring Fork, and so the glimmerings of a possible right of way might be traced beyond the summit.

To appreciate in some degree the appalling difficulties of this journey and its dangers as well, some description of the wild and forbidding character of the topography of the country to be traversed should be attempted. It should be borne in mind as well that it was a region of unbroken solitude. A serious casualty might lead to fatal consequences since assistance was not available. If obtained at all, some one must retrace his steps and take the hazard of reaching Cottonwood Springs where the chance of securing any aid of a substantial nature was extremely remote.

To lose their way would mean stark tragedy. The animals would soon starve for want of pasture, the scant store of provisions taken along could not be replenished, and loss of direction in the timbered slopes of the canyons was an ever-present contingency.

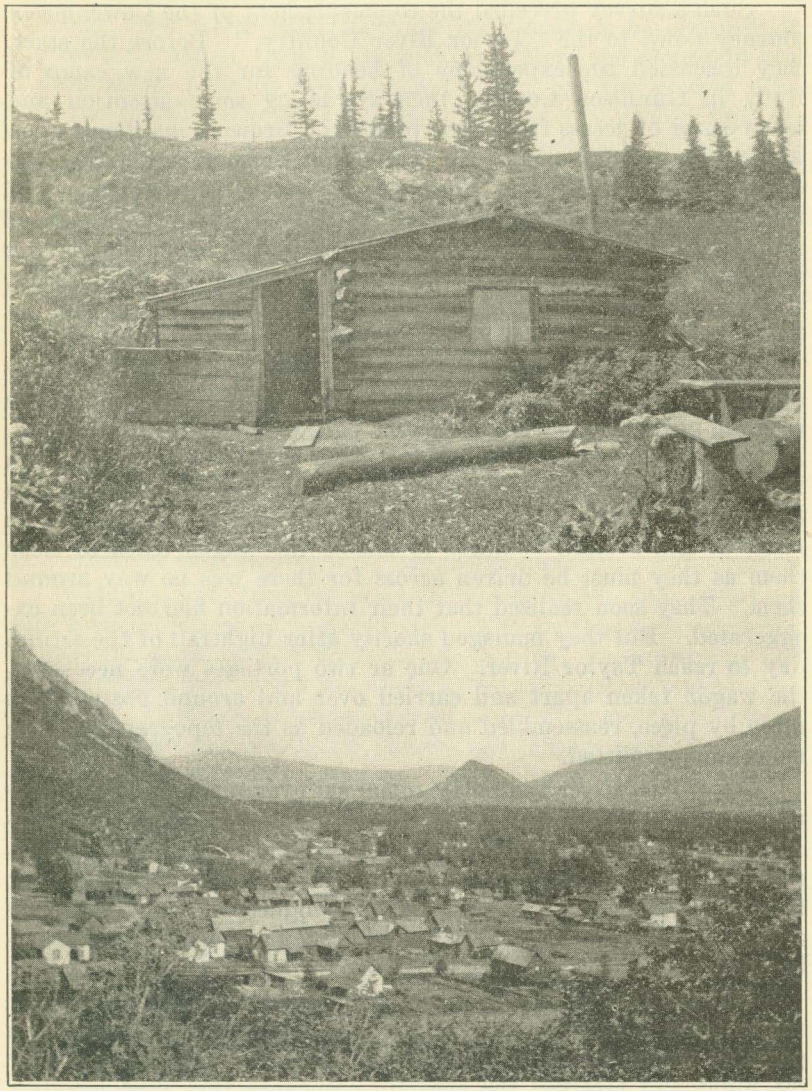
Between Black Hawk and the Roaring Fork four mountain ranges intervened. These were penetrated by the Kenosha, Mosquito, Continental and Taylor passes. The first two were of no moment to the traveler, for old and constantly traveled highways had lain across them for some twenty years. The Cottonwood pass over into the Taylor Park had become fairly familiar to prospectors during the year 1879. The ascent from Buena Vista was long and heavy, requiring frequent detours from the course of the stream to surmount the narrow gorges which it frequently encountered on its course to the Arkansas. The steepness of the slopes covered with trees and boulders seemed insurmountable. They could be overcome slowly and after incredible exertion. The strain upon man and beast was constant. Every foot of progress

was achieved at an expenditure of effort and anxiety whose cost could not be expressed in terms of money.

Above the timberline, the surface of the mountains along the slopes of the passes became comparatively level for considerable distances. The melting snows collecting upon them drain slowly, and the soil gathering in these plateaus becomes saturated with moisture which converts them into quagmires virtually impassable until the construction of corduroy causeways across them. Early trails therefore avoided them and hugged their margins, where loose slide rock presents an obstruction to travel almost as forbidding. Where that is absent, the solid surfaces are apt to be precipitous, projections forcing other detours generally over stretches of slide rock upon the tormented pilgrim. But his motto whether expressed or suppressed was "Needs must when the devil drives"; for it is not recorded that many of them ever struck their colors to these formidable obstacles of nature. His indomitable resolution confronted them and overcame or surmounted them whatever the cost. These pioneers were in very truth the supermen of their time and the breed has passed with the environment which produced them.

The western slopes of the Rocky Mountains descend much more abruptly than those of the east. The gorges through which the water of the streams tumble and cascade toward the lowlands are more wild and precipitous. Hence, trail and afterwards road construction around and over them present many difficult engineering problems and at times involve heavy expense. One compelled to surmount these rugged and broken solitudes on his own initiative constantly encountered vertical precipices blocking his progress and compelling him to retrace his steps and grope his way in some other direction where less formidable obstructions might be encountered. The topography of the mountains also comprises vast slopes of timber through which a passage in primitive days could only be made with the ax. Precipitous waterways carried rushing torrents which had to be spanned with bridges to be crossed at all. And their crossings and recrossings were all too frequently imperative.

In 1880 first hand information of the detailed geography of such a country was not available. From the vantage point of accessible peaks the traveler must therefore make a visual survey of the domain immediately below, fix prominent and easily recognized features in his memory, carefully observe the contours and general course of the valleys. He must discover, if possible, where forage for his mules may be expected along his probable line of descent. If glimpses of a great plateau in the purple distance can be outlined, he is cheered by the fact, although he may emerge from the



UPPER: THE FIRST CABIN ON ASPEN MOUNTAIN
Built by Hank Tourtelott in 1879 and still standing.

LOWER: MODERN VIEW OF ASPEN FROM ASPEN MOUNTAIN
(Pictures furnished by Mrs. David R. C. Brown)

wilderness of gorge and forest into some unseen and unknown valley.

Such a survey preceded the commencement of the Cowenhoven journey down to the "Taylor River Country." Before the start, they discussed the expediency of heading for the new camp of Ruby in Gunnison County, then attracting some attention and much easier of access from their position. Brown's insistence upon Aspen finally prevailed. He preferred Blodgett's detailed descriptions of the Roaring Fork discoveries to floating rumors of Ruby's new-found treasure house. It was by no means a case of a bird in the hand against two or three in the bush, but having virtually selected an objective on breaking camp at Twin Lakes, Brown protested against abandoning it for another not so well defined. So they began the slow and difficult descent to the river.

Just here they encountered a man who had worked his way upward to the summit. He drove a pair of horses, attached to the running gear, or what might now be called the chassis of a wagon. He asked about the road to the Arkansas Valley. Brown told him it was hell. He replied that hell but faintly described the trail to the west, and that in many places small rocks would have to be filled in and around boulders to enable the wagon axles to clear them as they must be driven across for there was no way around them. They soon realized that their information had not been exaggerated. But they managed shortly after nightfall of the second day to reach Taylor River. One or two portages were necessary, the wagon taken apart and carried over and around obstructions piece by piece, reassembled and reloaded as the topography of the mountain permitted.

At Taylor River the party remained over night and then proceeded up the stream to the foot of the range, bounding the Roaring Fork country to the west and north, and which must be surmounted to reach the promised land. This was their last and most formidable barrier. The pass was the highest of the four to be crossed and the topography was more broken and perilous, especially upon the downward slope to the north.

But the foot of the range was reached at nightfall where they encountered a road camp of eight men engaged in pioneering a passable wagon route to the summit. Here the party rested for the night and received the cheerful assurance that they couldn't make the top with loaded wagons and might as well abandon the effort. But they refused to do so and in a day and a half after leaving the road camp they reached the summit and then, to use Mr. Brown's words, "their troubles began sure enough."

Reaching timberline, they saw the wheel tracks of the McFarlane wagon leading to the top of the ridge above the timber. Thus

they followed to the head of the South Fork of Castle Creek, leading down the northerly slope of the range and flowing into the Roaring Fork River just below the park soon to be occupied by the town of Aspen, then in the making. Here the mountain took a drop at an angle of fully thirty degrees, but the ground being soft the descent was safely made. Just at the timber line, the front wagon with Mr. Cowenhoven and the women of the party plunged into a bog and was mired fast. The mules were finally extricated but little the worse for the accident. Getting the wagon out was much harder. Everything was taken out of it and carried ahead to firm ground. All the mules were then hitched to it and an effort made to pull it out of the mud, but after half a day's work the task was abandoned. A contrivance known as a Spanish windlass was then rigged up with one of the wagon wheels and ropes, one end of which was fastened to the tongue and the mules to the other. Then with pries and levers the front wheels were finally pulled up on to the sod. The mules were then able to pull the wagon out. This consumed a day of constant effort. The second wagon was then unloaded and driven around the bog, everything reloaded, and after a night's rest, the train started early the next morning with Brown this time in the lead.

Within a mile from the start they came to the edge of a bluff with a sheer descent of some 40 feet. The wagons were again unloaded, the stuff packed down to the bottom, the mules led and pushed down after it, and the wagons then taken apart and lowered by ropes. This was repeated several times afterwards, a number of similar obstructions being successively encountered and there being no other way of proceeding. This toilsome progress was exasperatingly slow. It required two weeks to go ten miles, every moment of daylight being consumed in the grinding toil of unloading, transporting, reloading, harnessing, unharnessing, pulling, pushing, hauling, lowering, and assembling. Such drastic labor brought sheer exhaustion to all hands by nightfall, which blessed them with profound and exhaustless slumber. The women bore their full part of the common burden, helped wherever possible, prepared the meals, gathered the firewood, laundered the clothing, watered and hobbled the animals, and lightened the toil of the men wherever possible.

The trip was attended by the constant hazard of casualties to man and beast, which, however, was happily avoided. But the rains were prevalent in the high altitude at that season and nearly every afternoon brought its drenching downpour, sometimes turning into hail, causing a lowered temperature at times to the freezing point in the early mornings. The chilling atmosphere and drenched garments required fires and plenty of them, fuel not being

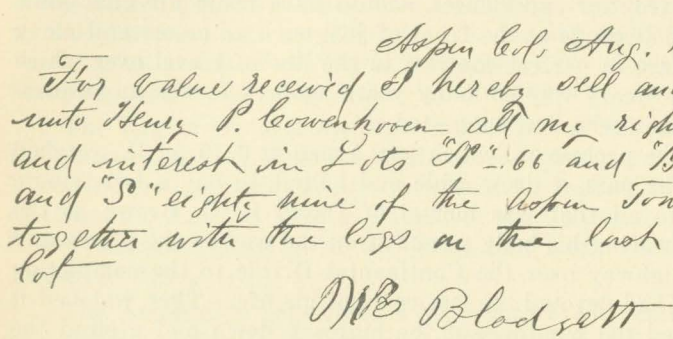
always available after a heavy rain had saturated the dead logs and timber with moisture. Sickness lurking in the camp of the pioneer is a constant menace whose appearance must be confronted with the rudest methods of treatment, medical aid being too remote to be available. The wives and children of our mountain pioneers who have played a losing game with fate and succumbed to the peril of disease resulting from hardship and exposure, line the early trails and passes of the mountains with their unmarked graves, the toll of humanity to the cruel and relentless forces of nature untempered by the wit and precautions of long experiences with her moods and methods. Our little band of rugged adventurers, hardened by many years of pioneering, luckily escaped all these vicissitudes and finally arrived no whit the worse for their adventure.

In their monotonous and snail-like progress down the gorge of South Castle Creek, they finally reached the crest of a hill slanting both downward and sidewise. To descend it, they were compelled to conform to this double slope. By exercising constant vigilance and holding the wagons back one at a time with ropes occasionally wrapped around a convenient tree, they slowly crept along and beyond this treacherous formation. Then, halting their jaded teams for needed rest, they looked down the valley, where, a thousand feet below, spread the tents of the new camp of Ashcroft before their weary vision. Men and women moved among them. It was as though they had returned to a familiar world from which they had long since withdrawn.

The next morning Brown went down to Ashcroft on foot where he hired two additional men who came with axes and a chain for rough locks. They cut down two trees close to the roots, fastened their tops to the rear axle with the roots resting on the ground, which dug into the soil. Brown drove and the men each with a guy rope at the side steadied the vehicle and kept it on balance as it crept down the mountain side, thus making the Ashcroft plateau about 3 o'clock P. M. Ashcroft was at the moment "the greatest camp ever," but the travelers had started for Aspen and thither they proceeded the next morning, making eight miles by night. The following morning they broke camp for the last lap of the nerve-racking journey. It was July 21, 1880, and at 2:30 P. M. they rounded the shoulder of the mountain from which the valley of the Roaring Fork stretched below and beyond them, broadening toward the horizon and "bathed in the tenderest purple of distance." It was a panorama of surpassing beauty, an assurance of the journey's end. Brown spoke for all when he declared it to be the most wonderful sight he had ever beheld. They drove down to the river level, then up stream to the "big Ute spring"

at the edge of the town site, where the general camping grounds were located.

Their old friend Blodgett was early on hand to welcome them. The next morning that enterprising gentleman sold Mr. Cowenhoven a lot for $75.00 on which the purchaser promptly erected a log store building and house for the quartette.



Aspen Col, Aug. 14th 80

For value received I hereby sell and transfer unto Henry P. Cowenhooven all my right title and interest in Lots "N"-66 and "B"-67 & and "S" except nine of the Aspen Townsite together with the logs on the last named lot

D W B Blodgett

BLODGETT'S RECEIPT FOR THE FIRST LOT SOLD TO COWENHOVEN IN ASPEN

The receipt was apparently not made out until some days after the sale had been made.

By early fall the Independence trail had been opened. His pack trains arrived over it with ample supplies of merchandise, and business became brisk from the start. Prospecting parties were grub-staked from the outset and as time passed some of the mining claims which were thus acquired proved extremely valuable. In October, 1881, Brown married Miss Cowenhoven, and became a member of the firm. By 1884, Cowenhoven and Brown, which included their wives, were rich enough to retire from retail traffic. They sold their business and began investing. The Cowenhovens, rich and large hearted, were gathered to their fathers in the nineties, Mrs. Brown soon joined them, and Mr. Brown lived on, beloved, honored and respected until midsummer of 1930, when he, too, after a long life filled with unusual trials and experiences, but crowned with an ample fortune, passed away, mourned by all who knew him and especially by his neighbors of Aspen, where he lived for fifty years and died in the fullness of his years. He was taken to Denver for interment and an escort of honor, comprising substantially the whole population of Aspen, accompanied the remains to and over Independence Pass. This was not only a beautiful tribute of sympathetic love and affection to the most prominent and beloved citizen of the Western Slope, but a perfectly appropriate close of a career which neither present nor future can ever duplicate.

The poor and obscure young man, who just fifty years before, taking his life and future in his hands, plunged into the mountain wilderness under the leadership of his pioneer father-in-law, emerging after months of toil and privation into a remote valley prolific in potential opportunity, to which he devoted the remainder of his life and to whose people he was ever drawn by the sympathy of common frontier experiences, should have made his final journey across that range at the front of just such an escort and along a thoroughfare in perfect contrast to the line of travel over which he toiled his weary way so many years agone. It was an inspiration to the man who first suggested it.

When the procession, which left Aspen at 5:15 A. M., reached the top of the pass, it drew aside and halted, to pay a last tribute of respect to all that was mortal of David R. C. Brown as the ambulance bearing his body passed it on the way to the plains and along the highway over the Continental Divide to the completion of which he had devoted the last years of his life. They watched it as it followed the windings of the highway down and around the sides of the mountain until it passed from view, then retraced their journey back to the little city on the Roaring Fork. The adventure and the romance of the Cowenhoven pioneers had passed into history.

The Making of Mesa Verde Into a National Park

VIRGINIA MCCLURG*

In the noble and farreaching undertaking which resulted in the creation of Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, the first of our National Parks which added ethnological and archaeological values to scenery and the wild life of nature, there were a number of persons and organizations who took an honored part. Perhaps most prominent among these is the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association, that organization of some two hundred women, who for twenty-five years prior to 1906 (the date of Mesa Verde Park's establishment) labored unceasingly, self-denyingly, and spent largely of their substance, to make Mesa Verde known to an absolutely uninformed public and to have it set apart for permanent preservation.

The Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association, organized as a committee of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs, exists now as

*Mrs. McClurg, well-known poet and writer of Colorado Springs and of Stonington, Connecticut, has been a moving spirit in the awakening of interest in archaeology in the Southwest. She was very active in the work which resulted in the setting apart of Mesa Verde as a National Park. Mrs. McClurg holds the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, and was given by France the Gold Palm of the Academy, *Officier de l'Instruction Publique*, for her cliff dwellings work.—Ed.

an incorporated body, with chapters in California and New York, and is affiliated with the Archaeological Institute of America. Its activities have been as follows: The first map of Mesa Verde (aside from the Government Surveys) was made at the instance and expense of the Association. Unceasing propaganda of information regarding the little-known Mesa Verde was carried on by means of newspaper and magazine articles, by more than one thousand lectures, and by literature sent to our law-makers. Trips to Washington and to Mesa Verde inaugurated the Association's unflinching purpose to make Mesa Verde a protected park.

The Regent General was sent in 1906 as official delegate from the United States of America to the ethnological congresses of the Paris International Exposition to lecture upon the Cliff Dwellings of Colorado, thus lecturing in French at the College de France and before scientific societies at the Trocadero and ethnological congresses in Paris.

The Association negotiated a lease with the Weeminuche Utes that gave it authority to protect the Mesa Verde ruins of the cliff dwellers from squatters and white men's grazing cattle. The Regent General acted as special commissioner to the Utes, having been so appointed by the Government, to secure this lease.

A wagon road connecting Mancos, Colorado, with Cliff Canon of Mesa Verde was constructed along the river bank at the Association's expense and one of its members on horseback personally accompanied surveyors and workmen engaged in the road building.

The spring at Spruce Tree House, the chief source of camp supply since Mesa Verde's creation as a National Park, was a round aperture in the shale, from which water could be drawn out only in scanty bucketfuls. Through the generous donation of one of the members of the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association (Mrs. John Hays Hammond) the shale was broken away by dynamite charges and the best spring of the entire region made available.

Way and water thus being provided the Association decided that ethnologists and archaeologists ought to have first-hand knowledge of the ruins in the proposed park. When the American Association of Science met in Denver, certain members of "Section H" (of Anthropology) were invited to visit Mesa Verde as guests of the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association. They were provided with railroad transportation to and from Mesa Verde, with guides, equipment and commissariat, and were personally conducted to and from the ruins by the officers of the Association over the new wagon road.

Dr. and Mrs. Fewkes were my personal guests on this occasion, it being the first trip they had made to southwestern Colorado

and its ruin area. All our guests were lost in wonder and admiration. Dr. Fewkes said, "Mesa Verde embraces the most spectacular and representative group of cliff ruins known in the United States."

Science being conciliated and informed, the next move was to interest Congressmen and Senators. Such were also personally conducted. This effort bore final fruit in what is known as the Brooks-Leupp amendment. When all was in line for the Park creation, it developed that an error in description marked out for a park an area on Mesa Verde that had not one cliff-house within its bounds. The women rallied once more. A survey was made and their contention was sustained, and by an amendment attached as a rider to the bill, the Cliff Dwellings of Mesa Verde were included in the National Park.

Since the establishment of the Park, the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association, at an expense of $1,000 has repaired Balcony House, the "most perfect example of finished architecture" in the Mesa Verde region. This work was done under the direction of the Archaeological Institute of America. Balcony House had been discovered October 6, 1886 (two years prior to the discovery of Cliff Palace) by the exploring party led and fitted out by the writer of this sketch. Says Director Edgar Allen Hewett, "Balcony House will ever stand an enduring monument to the pluck and perseverance of the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association."

An original pageant, the "Marriage of the Dawn and the Moon," was staged by the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association at Spruce Tree House and drew spectators from near and far.

After the Mesa Verde became a National Park, Dr. Fewkes, as representative of the Bureau of Ethnology, began to develop the ruined area with magnificent success. The repairing of Cliff Palace, Spruce Tree House, and Dr. Fewkes' description thereof, are contributions to the pre-Columbian life of the Southwest which it would be almost impossible to over-estimate in interest and value. "Sun Temple" ruin, until his excavation and repair, had been supposd to be only one of the pueblos which so often flank the cliff houses above. His interpretations of its ideals and sacred possibilities are epochal. Far View House also marked most interesting excavations. Dr. Fewkes worked for the Smithsonian Institution. His "finds," from mummified bodies and pottery to stone axes, went to the Smithsonian Institution.

Of late years the Italian Government has found it best to leave objects "in situ" at Pompeii, as far as practicable. It may be admissible to hurl the epithet of "pot-hunters" at the first explorers of the region and alas, there was much deplorable vandalism, and could the Government earlier have lent ear to the petitionary voice

of the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association much in relics and in buildings, now irrevocably lost, would have been preserved under the aegis of a park. But let the shelves of Swedish collections show whether Baron Nordenskjold himself might not be termed a "pot-hunter." His atonement, however, was his magnificent book.

Raton Pass, an Historic Highway

LeRoy R. Hafen

Spanish names in great number dot the map of Colorado. In the southern part of the state especially, do mountain, stream and pass bear testimony to the early Spanish conquest of this region. The dates of the discovery and the naming of many geographical features in this region are already lost to history. Such is the case in regard to Raton Pass, that well-known landmark on the Colorado-New Mexico boundary south of Trinidad. "Raton" is usually thought of as the Spanish term for "mouse," but the term "rodent" would no doubt be a better equivalent. It is probable that the presence of rodents gave the name to Raton Pass and Raton Mountain.

Out in this Southwest interior, far removed from sea coast or national capitals, one would expect to find hardly an echo of international conflicts or of war—except with Indian tribes. But such is not the case. Important acts in the great dramas of history have been staged in this region. Raton Pass has not only been a great peace highway but also an important avenue in international rivalry and war.

One of the earliest recorded expeditions to traverse the Raton Pass region was the ill-starred party led by Pedro Villasur in 1720. In those early years of the 18th century, while England's colonies were a narrow string along the Atlantic coast, a spirited rivalry was being waged between France and Spain for the vast empire of western America. Villasur's expedition was an episode in that contest. Spain having learned of France's penetration among the Indians west of the Mississippi, dispatched this expedition of 1720 to turn back the French intruders.

Villasur's party of over one hundred men crossed the Raton Mountains and continued northward to the Rio Napeste (Arkansas) and to the Rio Jesus Maria (Platte) and on this latter stream in an unguarded camp was ambushed by Indians led by Frenchmen. Almost the entire Spanish party was killed, only a small remnant escaping to tell their tale of woe back in Santa Fe. Spain made no

further demonstrations out into the Plains area and France's claim to the reaches of the Mississippi Valley remained intact.

At at later day Napoleon, fearing to lose the great Louisiana Territory to England, sold the vast domain to President Jefferson (1803). New international rivals now faced each other in the Southwest. Among the first expressions of this contest was the journey, famous in Colorado history, made by Zebulon Montgomery Pike in 1806. More imposing, but less renowned, was the counter expedition of the same year led by Don Facundo Melgares to turn back the Americans. The Spanish Don had a party of 600 troops, 2000 horses and was equipped for a six months' tour. Fortunately for Pike and subsequent history, he did not meet the little band of about twenty Americans led by the intrepid Pike. Thus Melgares returned from the Arkansas River to the Spanish settlements by way of Raton Pass and left Pike to continue his famous tour of exploration and to enshrine himself forever in Colorado history and geography.

A few years passed and Mexico won her independence from Spain (1821). Uncle Sam, grown tall, turned a jealous eye upon the dominions descended from the Dons. The lucrative and extensive Santa Fe trade by way of Raton Pass or across the Cimarron *jornada* stimulated his desire for greater American empire. Affairs culminated in the War with Mexico.

Then over the dusty Santa Fe Trail and up the Arkansas to Bent's Fort came the "Army of the West," under General Stephen W. Kearny. The great caravan of 1600 men with over 1500 wagons and about 15,000 oxen crossed the Arkansas near the fort and trudged along the trail leading toward Raton. Detachments were sent ahead to repair the road up Raton Creek and over the famous pass. Colonel Doniphan, later to lead his troops far down into Chihuahua, and Major William Gilpin (later to become first Governor of Colorado), who was to head an Indian campaign into the San Juan region, were in command of detachments of the Army of the West as it struggled up the steep road leading to the pass. William Bent, famed merchant-trader and Colorado pioneer, led a scouting party in advance of the main army.

New Mexico was conquered and Kearny continued westward to take possession of California. Then back over the trail came a succession of expresses for Washington, with the official reports of success, carried over Raton Pass by the noted scouts Kit Carson, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Solomon Sublette and Thomas Boggs. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed (1848) and land for the formation of six new American states came under the Stars and Stripes.

The Civil War began. A conquering Confederate army marched from Texas up the Rio Grande. Union forts gave way and Santa Fe was occupied. Northeast of the New Mexico capital lay the great military depot of Fort Union, and beyond were the gold mines of Colorado. A frantic appeal for help came over Raton to Governor Gilpin and the First Colorado Volunteers were ordered to the rescue.

Leaving Camp Weld, at Denver, on Washington's birthday, 1862, Colonel Slough and Major Chivington led their mountaineers toward New Mexico. With forced marches this regiment of infantry crossed the Raton and hurried on to meet and defeat the invading Texans in the Battle of Glorieta, the "Gettysburg of the Southwest," and to turn back the Confederate army and save the whole region to the Union.

The peacetime use of Raton Pass has been hardly less spectacular than the military crossings. The evolutionary conquest of commerce is most engaging.

Buffaloes broke the pioneer trail through the scrub oak over the pass. Indian ponies dragging lodge-pole travois widened and deepened it. Mexican traders on their sleepy little burros venturing out on the Plains to trade Mexican flour and *aguardiente* ("Taos lightning") to the Indians, kept the trail fresh. American traders with pack-horse loads of red cloth, bright beads and gaudy trinkets followed the burro and pony trail. Then with the breaking of a wagon road to Santa Fe (1822) and the building of Bent's Fort (1829) the Raton Pass trail became a road—though hardly worthy of that name.

As the great traders' caravans trekked over the Santa Fe Trail, shouts of bullwhackers and the crack of bull whips echoed through the pinons as the heavy wagons rumbled and grumbled up the road over Raton. Stagecoaches with their leather boots bulging with United States mail and treasured express came in the early sixties. "Uncle Dick" Wootton built his celebrated toll road over the pass (receiving a charter from the Colorado legislature in 1865) and collected his tariff from mule skinner and horseman at the big gate by his station-home.

In the seventies the iron horse nosed its way across the plains, up the Arkansas, came puffing up the grade leading to the Raton and dived through a tunnel beneath the summit of the pass. With the twentieth century came the automobile, and the old wagon and stage-coach roads were revived. The narrow, winding toll road became a boulevard and over it today thousands of persons in their shining, purring cars cross Raton Pass for the very joy of the crossing.

The Colorado Gold Rush and California

ROBERT H. BAHMER*

In the history of the frontier few stories carry more interest than those relating to the gold rush. These dramatic movements of population, though being in the end more substantial than spectacular, do stand out because of the excitement and spirit of adventure on which they were based. The rush feature was present throughout the history of the mineral frontier—after California, in Colorado, in Nevada, in Montana and Idaho, and in the Southwest. Though the essential features of the gold rush itself are well known, less studied has been the "why" of the movement, the means by which the gold fever was induced, the agencies and methods by which the news of the gold discoveries were spread. Such a study if complete would be partly psychological, but much can be gained by an analysis of contemporary newspapers, for the press more than any other agency was responsible for the rise and spread of the gold fever. While letters and their resultant stories and returned miners and the tales they told could reach but a limited number, the excitement caused by mining news in the pages of the newspapers became nation-wide. This paper has for its purpose the relating of the Colorado gold rush of 1858-59 as seen in California through California newspapers.[1]

Emigration to the territory of present Colorado in the spring of 1859 followed the spreading of the news that prospecting parties had discovered gold near Pike's Peak during the summer of 1858. Press reports so advertised the discoveries during the fall of 1858 that only approaching winter deterred the gold seekers from going at once.[2] Continuous propaganda during the winter combined with the economic depression still existing, particularly in the middle western states, to induce many thousands to start for the mines in the early months of 1859. Many went; many returned. Only the discoveries of May, 1859, prevented the rush from being a failure, for until that time gold in paying quantities had not been discovered. However, these and subsequent discoveries made Colorado a part of the mineral frontier.

*Mr. Bahmer was a graduate student last year at the University of Colorado. He gathered the data for this paper while attending the University of California the past summer.—Ed.

[1]This study, suggested by Prof. James F. Willard of the University of Colorado and supplementary to his work on the spreading in the East the news of the Colorado gold mines, is based on a survey of the following newspapers, the files of which are to be found in the Bancroft Library, University of California: [San Francisco] *Daily Times, Evening Bulletin, Daily Alta California, Herald,* [Sacramento] *Daily Union,* [North San Juan] *Hydraulic Press* (weekly), [Nevada City] *Journal* (weekly).

[2]James F. Willard, "Spreading the News of the Early Discoveries of Gold in Colorado," *Colorado Mag.* VI: 98-104. (May, 1929).

For this and other news from the East, California, in 1858, was in the main dependent on six postal routes. These were:

1st. The Central Route, from Independence, Missouri, to Placerville, California, via Salt Lake City, weekly.

2d. Kansas City, Missouri, to Stockton, California, via Santa Fe, monthly.

3d. The Butterfield Route, from St. Louis to San Francisco, via El Paso, semi-weekly.

4th. San Antonio, Texas, to San Diego, California, semi-monthly.

5th. New Orleans to San Francisco, via Tehuantepec, semi-monthly.

6th. New York to San Francisco, via Panama, semi-monthly.[3]

In spite of the fact that the mail by the Tehuantepec route came through most rapidly, the Butterfield was the most important for the carrying of the Colorado rush news. This was true not only because the latter route was semi-weekly but also because it began at St. Louis, a focal point for news for the Pike's Peak mines. The regular time for mail over this route was twenty-five days,[4] and since nearly an equal period was necessary to bring news from the mines to St. Louis, California newspaper reports of these were on an average about a month and a half old. The Central Route, bringing newspapers and correspondence from Salt Lake City, and the water routes frequently brought news of importance. The telegraph, though in its infancy, played a part in getting the news to California. By 1859 lines had been constructed from San Francisco to San José[5] and to Placerville.[6] More quickly to get the news from the East, the daily papers arranged to have telegraphic summaries of the most important items forwarded from these places by telegraph as soon as the Overland Mail arrived. During 1859 both lines were extended, the one to Placerville reaching Genoa in Utah Territory (present Nevada),[7] the one to San José, Gilroy[8] and later, Lone Willow Station.[9]

California editors received news of the Colorado gold rush from several sources: newspapers brought by Overland Mail or steamship, dispatches from special correspondents, letters, and statements of immigrants to California who had passed through or near the gold fields. The latter two sources contributed practically nothing. Most important were the newspapers, and the number quoted is astonishingly large. It is to be expected that the Missouri

[3]L. R. Hafen, *The Overland Mail, 1849-1869.* 121.
[4]*Ibid.,* 95.
[5][San Francisco] *Daily Alta,* Oct. 18, 1858.
[6]*Ibid.,* Oct. 19, 1858.
[7][San Francisco] *Daily Times,* Nov. 30, 1858.
[8][San Francisco] *Daily Alta,* June 22, 1859.
[9]*Ibid.,* Nov. 17, 1859.

and especially the St. Louis papers were the ones most frequently copied. The following list shows the range from which material was borrowed:

[St. Louis] *Republican, Democrat, Evening Bulletin, Evening News, Herald.*
[Leavenworth] *Times, Herald, Leader.*
[St. Joseph] *Journal, Gazette, West.*
[Omaha] *Republican, Nebraskian.*
[Council Bluffs] *Nonpareil, Bugle.*
[Salt Lake City] *Deseret News, Valley Tan.*
Missouri Republican.
Missouri Democrat.
[New York] *Times, Tribune.*
[Lawrence] *Republican.*
[Kansas City] *Journal of Commerce.*
[Nebraska City] *News.*
[Wyandotte] *Commercial Gazette.*
[Independence] *Occidental Messenger.*
[Princeton] *Indianean.*
[Fort Smith] *Times.*
[Davenport] *Gazette.*
[Iowa City] *Republican.*
[Hannibal] *Messenger.*
[Chicago] *Press and Tribune.*
[Brunswick] *Press.*
[Rockford] *Register.*
[Denver] *Rocky Mountain News.*
Kansas Press.
Kansas Tribune.

Shortly after the establishment of regular mail service overland, three of the dailies, the *Daily Alta,* the *Evening Bulletin,* and the Sacramento *Daily Union,* were provided with regular correspondence from St. Louis. They received, also, dispatches from Salt Lake City. Each arrival of the mail brought a resumé of news from these places, and during the gold rush, generally the correspondent's opinion of that development. It is a perfectly safe conclusion to say that except for the unavoidable delay in getting the news the people of California were as well informed of the gold mines in Kansas as any other group, save only that on the border immediately adjoining the newly-discovered mines.

First news of the new discoveries was circulated in California on October 1, 1858.[10] As the overland mail had not yet been established, the news came via Panama. The account published was one

[10][San Francisco] *Daily Alta,* Oct. 1, 1858.

originally appearing in the *Missouri Republican,* August 29.[11] Great excitement, the Californians were told, prevailed in the border towns because of the arrival of a Mr. Richards in Kansas City. This gentleman reported that with little prospecting and with inferior implements two men had washed out $600 worth of gold dust in one week from a little stream fifty miles north of Pike's Peak. On October 2 a part of this same article appeared in the Sacramento paper.[12] For a week no further mention of the mines was made; then on October 7 the *Evening Bulletin* received news of the mines from its Salt Lake correspondent. Men were making from $10 to $12 per day in the mines and gold dust had arrived in Salt Lake City, so ran the letter.[13] Two days later the Sacramento paper again copied this item,[14] and within two days the first mail had arrived over the Butterfield route bringing St. Louis papers filled with news of the gold excitement.[15] The glowing accounts were quoted and from this time on no week passed that did not see in some manner the news of the Colorado gold mines paraded before the people of California.

The reaction of the California editors to this first news is interesting. Mining news was to them common news. For years California had been hearing of gold discoveries within the state and elsewhere. This same year had witnessed a rush of miners out of the state to Fraser River and had seen many of them return disappointed. Rumors of new mines might stampede the editors in Missouri but not in California—too often they had seen such reports prove groundless. Knowingly the editor of the *Daily Alta* remarked:[16]

"The gold mines in Kansas are, it will be seen, creating quite a *furore* in the western States. For our part, past experience teaches us to be chary of believing reports relative to gold discoveries and while we earnestly hope that 'Bleeding Kansas' may yet become a second California, we shall for the present receive these reports, *cum grano salis.*"

Such hesitation seemed justified when on October 27, four of the daily papers borrowed from the *Occidental Messenger* an item representing the mines as being unprofitable and deserted.[17] Unfortunately, said the *Daily Alta,* "the Pike's Peak gold diggings have proved a flash in the pan."[18] But the diggings were not so easily dismissed. On November 1 a dispatch from the New York

[11]James F. Willard, *op. cit.* VI:102.
[12][Sacramento] *Daily Union,* October 2, 1858.
[13][San Francisco] *Evening Bulletin,* Oct. 7, 1858.
[14][Sacramento] *Daily Union,* Oct. 9, 1858.
[15][San Francisco] *Daily Alta,* Oct. 11, 1858.
[16][San Francisco] *Daily Alta,* Oct. 24, 1858.
[17][San Francisco] *Daily Times,* Oct. 27, 1858; *Daily Alta,* Oct. 27, 1858; *Evening Bulletin,* Oct. 27, 1858; [Sacramento] *Daily Union,* Oct. 27, 1858.
[18][San Francisco] *Daily Alta,* Oct. 27, 1858.

correspondent of the *Bulletin* told of the arrival in Wyandotte, Kansas, of $10,000 in gold dust and of another lot worth $35,000 that had been sent out of the region by steamer.[19] The *Daily Times* of the same date told of one man who had made $6,000 in a few weeks and of a small boy who had "dug and found" gold to the amount of $1,000.[20] These and the reports that continued throughout the winter which told of men making, always with inferior implements, from $5 to $20 per day—it was said in Salt Lake City that the wages were from $100 to $200[21]—were clearly gross exaggerations. It has been estimated that less than $10,000 worth of gold was found by all parties during 1858.[22] Truthful statements were bound to appear, and the result was confusion. Statements of the most contradictory character appeared in the press all winter long.

During the spring when companies began to leave the Missouri River for the mines the news items increased. Californians learned of the thousands who went to the mines, but soon they also heard of the thousands who returned pronouncing the whole affair a cattrap and a humbug. All news during the month of June was unfavorable. The St. Louis correspondents were merciless in their denunciation of the hoax. The *Daily Alta* received the following:[23]

"The principal topic of general interest just now is the Pike's Peak swindle and the crowds of returning adventurers. The reports of disappointment, privation, and indignation on the part of the emigrants continue to accumulate, until there is now no doubt that the whole Pike's Peak affair is a most shameful and heartless cheat."

Responsibility for the delusion was placed definitely on the press of Kansas, Nebraska and western Missouri. As early as November, 1858, the correspondent of the *Evening Bulletin* had warned that the excitement was newspaper-made;[24] the one for the *Daily Union* went further and put the entire blame on the Leavenworth papers. "I have yet to see," he wrote, "the first item from one of the papers of that place calculated to cause anyone to ponder before going to the mines."[25] The reason for this was obvious, continued the letter, "the citizens of that place are Napoleons on a small, very small scale. They would build up their town on hecatombs of human beings if it could be built up in no other way."

Undoubtedly the over-zealous press had been responsible for the undue excitement, but some blame must be allotted to those who

[19] [San Francisco] *Evening Bulletin*, Nov. 1, 1858.
[20] [San Francisco] *Daily Times*, Nov. 1, 1858.
[21] [San Francisco] *Daily Alta*, Nov. 10, 1858.
[22] James F. Willard, "The Gold Rush and After" in *Colorado Short Studies of Its Past and Present*, 105.
[23] [San Francisco] *Daily Alta*, June 23, 1859.
[24] [San Francisco] *Evening Bulletin*, Nov. 12, 1858.
[25] [Sacramento] *Daily Union*, April 18, 1859.

in the first instance returned from the mines with the fabulous stories.

If one may judge from newspaper reports there was little emigration from California to Pike's Peak. *A priori* it might be assumed that such was discouraged by the California papers, but this was not the case. Up to July, 1859, the same highly-colored news appeared in California that was published in the East, with only the natural caution that one who knew mining news would give. Conditions in California in 1858 had been favorable for a large emigration, as favorable as they were in the East, and a rush to Colorado would undoubtedly have taken place but for the one in the spring of 1858 to Fraser River. Thirty thousand miners left California at this time, and the number probably included the most of those who were feeling the pinch of changed conditions.[26] Though many of the miners returned, they were not good material to be attracted by news of the Pike's Peak mines, contradictory as this was.

However, a few Californians were lured to the new mines. In April, 1859, the *Hydraulic Press* noted that preparations were being made in several places for an emigration to the Platte,[27] and several reports from Genoa mentioned parties passing through that place on their way to Pike's Peak.[28] By June some of these had reached Salt Lake City. The correspondent of the *Daily Alta* wrote to his paper:[29]

"Parties from California bound to Pike's Peak are daily arriving, and yesterday some hundred passed through the principal street, evidently the news of the hitherto reported 'rich diggings' proving a failure having been reported to them. The probabilities are they will all return westward."

At any rate the population that California lost because of the Colorado gold rush was more than repaid by that movement itself. Observers had predicted that an unparalleled migration to California would take place in 1859, but in the spring the newly-discovered mines seemed to be absorbing all those who wished to move. There was some indication, however, that Pike's Peak was not the only goal of some of the travelers. In February the New York letter of the *Evening Bulletin* stated that thousands would perhaps push on to California. "Indeed," it was said, "we always hear of quite a number of parties preparing to fit out with the double destination in view."[30] Somewhat the same thought had come to the mind of the editor of the *Daily Times*. It moved him to write a

[26] W. J. Trimble, *The Mining Advance into the Inland Empire*, 26-28.
[27] [North San Juan] *Hydraulic Press*, Apr. 16, 1859.
[28] [San Francisco] *Daily Alta*, May 19, 1859; *Daily Union*, May 19, 1859.
[29] [San Francisco] *Daily Alta*, June 29, 1859.
[30] [San Francisco] *Evening Bulletin*, Feb. 12, 1859.

lengthy editorial on the subject. After commenting on the obvious fact that a great migration was shaping for the new gold region, the editor, good Californian that he was, reached the topic of his interest: He said:

"The opening of these mines is one more link in the chain of events which is tending to develop the Great West, and increase the tide of population setting towards the Pacific Coast. For every three men induced to leave Europe or the Atlantic States to delve in the Nebraska or Kansas mines, two will eventually reach this state, and the mass will eventually distribute themselves north and south, towards the consummation of the vast empire now growing up in these regions.

"Every newspaper paragraph appearing in the eastern press respecting the new mines, is just so much written in favor of California, and every individual attention that is turned thither, wanders onward to the promised land of California rich with gold, fertile in soil, laughing with sunlight and plenty and her picturesque shores washed by the waves of the Pacific. To this goal everything is tending. . . ."[31]

Had the editor been gifted with the power to see beforehand he could scarcely have written more truthfully. When the Pike's Peak bubble burst, the emigrants were faced with three alternatives: to go back to their homes, to stay on the frontier in Kansas, or to push on to the Pacific Coast. Thousands chose the latter course. Dispatches from Salt Lake City after the month of June were full of mention of disappointed miners on their way to the land of proven gold. In droves of hundreds and thousands they were reported as on their way through that city.[32] A Mr. Merrick in three days on the road near Fort Kearny met 805 teams of such travelers, averaging, he said, five persons to the team.[33] One person estimated that one-fifth of the disappointed Pike's Peakers pushed on to California.[34] Editor Horace Greeley who journeyed across the plains in July, put the total number at 30,000[35] and others agreed with him.[36] Many of these "disappointed miners" probably never traveled within fifty miles of the reported mines. One route to the mines was that which continued on to Salt Lake City by way of the North Platte, and many no doubt continued on this route after hearing adverse reports of the diggings.

At just this time when the panic of the returning gold-seekers was at its height, news that real discoveries of gold had been made came out of Leavenworth. The reception which this received can

[31][San Francisco] *Daily Times*, Feb. 10, 1859.
[32][San Francisco] *Daily Alta*, June 27, 1859.
[33][San Francisco] *Evening Bulletin*, Aug. 5, 1859.
[34]*Ibid.*, June 30, 1859.
[35][Sacramento] *Daily Union*, Aug. 4, 1859.
[36]*Ibid.*, Aug. 24, 1859.

well be imagined. Correspondents and editors alike were skeptical. "Another attempt is being made," said the *Daily Union* "to renew the Pike's Peak excitement on the strength of reported rich discoveries."[37] The correspondent of this paper again distrusted the Leavenworth papers. The merchants there, he said, are overstocked and dependent upon keeping up the rush.[38] All articles warned the public that the reports could not be relied upon. A dispatch in the *Bulletin* read:

"It will do well to hold the statement [regarding the new discovery] in doubt for at least a month to come though it should be reaffirmed every week of the time by fresh arrivals. Knowing the propensity of the Kansas people for downright, square, out-and-out lying, I am disposed to discard it altogether."[39]

Not until the end of the year did the skepticism disappear from the California press. Horace Greeley visited the mines and reported them as real, but his word had no effect in California. "His letter," said the *Daily Alta*, "must be received with many grains of allowance. Horace is not a practical miner. . . ."[40] Verbal statements were not enough for the unbelievers; they wanted gold dust, and strangely enough little of that article was reported as arriving. The stories of fabulous riches were said to be coming from Leavenworth. When a second rich strike was made in August, the correspondent of the *Daily Union* knew that all reports were false. "In plain language," he wrote, "as I conceive, a new bubble is now being inflated for the purpose of diverting attention from the bursting of the old."[41]

By the end of the year, however, gold in substantial amounts had reached St. Louis, and miners well supplied with dust had drifted back to the settlements. The reality of the mines could no longer be denied.

Preliminary Report on the Glade Park Skeleton

GEORGE WOODBURY

A little over a year ago Mr. Charles V. Eckman, rancher, of Glade Park, Colorado, 30 miles southwest of Grand Junction, found in the vicinity of his ranch the remains of a human skeleton. The circumstances under which this skeleton was found, together with its somewhat unusual appearance, persuaded Mr. Eckman to care-

[37][Sacramento] *Daily Union*, July 7, 1859.
[38]*Ibid.*, July 8, 1859.
[39][San Francisco] *Evening Bulletin*, July 7, 1859.
[40][San Francisco] *Daily Alta*, July 20, 1859.
[41][Sacramento] *Daily Union*, Sept. 16, 1859.

fully exhume and preserve the specimen. Through the agency of Mr. E. B. Faber of Grand Junction the existence of this find was called to the attention of the State Historical Society of Colorado and Mr. Eckman was kind enough to send on the specimen for the purpose of detailed examination and study.

So little of archaeological interest from northern or western Colorado has as yet been reported to the Society that this specimen is worthy of particular attention, although there was nothing in its location or in the nature of the find itself to warrant an assumption of great antiquity.

Mr. Eckman had found the skeleton quite accidentally as it lay in a small cave or rather niche in the rocky wall of a small canyon near his ranch at Glade Park. A recent rain had exposed the bones to view and their unusual position attracted Mr. Eckman's attention. It had clearly been a case of intentional burial, for the body had been placed sitting upright, the knees drawn up against the chest and the whole body turned so as to face the west. In spite of the fact that no accompanying artifacts or articles of any description were found with the skeleton, the crude stone and adobe masonry that had walled up the entrance of the recess indicated its function as a tomb.

The bones themselves were found to be in an excellent state of preservation, and the complete skeleton, except for a few of the small bones of the hands and feet, was recovered. Mr. Eckman is to be complimented upon the care and pains taken in collecting all the bones of this specimen possible. Too often the skull alone is preserved and while this is important, the body bones, alone, can tell of the stature of the person to whom they belonged as well as details of the person's customary habits of life, such as method of walking, sitting, evidences of injury and disease and other items of the greatest interest.

The detailed and more formal report upon this skeleton will have to wait until the essential instruments for taking measurements are available; however with the facilities at hand at the present moment it is possible to give some more or less accurate conception of the nature of the person represented by these bones.

The individual's age, arrived at by the study of the teeth, the sutures of joints between the bones of the skull and the general character of the body bones indicates that the person died shortly after passing middle age, that is, approximately in his sixtieth year. In this connection the teeth are of especial interest. They are nearly worn out. The wear, doubtless caused in good part by an accustomed diet of gritty food, is so great that the pulp cavities of the teeth had been exposed. The upper molar teeth had been lost

during the person's life from abscesses caused by this excessive wear. The upper and lower teeth meet together in a manner not often seen among any save Indians, that is, they meet exactly edge to edge and not overlapping in the customary manner of the European. This gives to the face that curious set expression of determination which one so often sees among the Indians.

The impression left upon the bones by the muscles shows that he was a person of great physical strength and this together with the small compact structure of the pelvis and the heavy, visor-like ridge overshadowing the eyes all point to the conclusion that we have here to deal with a man and not a woman.

There exists between the Indian and the European certain

FRONT AND PROFILE VIEWS OF THE GLADE PARK SPECIMEN

well marked anatomical differences that are sometimes as clear on the bones as on the living individuals themselves. The Indian for one thing, has in common with many other races of humans, the usual habit of sitting upon his heels, "squatting" would be perhaps a better name for it. This posture of repose they are accustomed to employ from the earliest childhood and when one considers how the great muscles of the leg and thigh are thus compressed between the bones of the upper and lower leg—for all the world like the action of a nut cracker—it is easy to see the effect manifested upon the shape of these bones. They are both bowed or curved from behind forward. This curvature was found to be present to a marked degree on the Glade Park specimen and this,

coupled with the wide massive appearance of the face and the circumstances in which the skeleton was found, leads one to the conclusion that he was an Indian of some description.

When the bones of the arm and leg are measured and calculated they are capable of telling the stature of the individual. In this instance the stature has been calculated and showed that the man was of middle height, that is, about five feet six inches in stature. Now, of the Indians known to inhabit or to have inhabited this section of the Southwest, the Utes were the chief group having this stature. The Plains Indian was tall; the Pueblo Indian short, but the Ute seems to have been the only group consistently of the middle stature.

The custom of burying the dead in niches in the rock is not a very common one among the American Indians. Outside of Alaska, cave burials were not, apparently, the common practice except among the Utes. In this connection there exist reports made from first hand observation of the burial customs of this group of Indians. Upon the death of a member of the tribe the body was taken to a niche or crevice on some isolated hill and there buried and the entrance walled up to prevent disturbance by foxes or coyotes. The body was buried alone and the tomb never revisited. In accordance with tribal custom all the personal belongings of the deceased were destroyed, even to his tent and horses.

It is well known that the Utes roamed this western section of Colorado in comparatively recent years and this, coupled with the manner of burial which is typically Ute and the characteristics of the skeleton all point to the conclusion that the skeleton found in Glade Park was that of a Ute Indian. It is impossible to give an accurate statement concerning the length of time that has elapsed since the body was deposited there. The excellent state of preservation in which even the most fragile and porous bones of the skeleton were found indicate that it was the burial of a comparatively recent Indian.

Much can be learned from the skeletal remains of man, although sometimes they are not considered as very important. To be sure it is important to save, collect and study the things man made, such as house ruins, pottery fragments, stone tools, etc., but what of the men who produced these articles? They form a link in the story of a past civilization, and so when this kind of material is found it ought to be carefully preserved and studied so that this information may be added to our stock of knowledge concerning the early inhabitants of the state of Colorado.

The Reception of Colorado's First Governor

Colorado welcomed her first Governor more than sixty-nine years ago. It was late Monday afternoon, May 27, 1861, that a cloud of dust on the Platte River trail leading to Denver announced the coming of the Concord stagecoach from the Missouri River. It carried Missouri papers with fresh news but six days old and dispatches of later date picked up from the latest pony express at Julesburg, but more anxiously awaited just then was a certain person in the coach. A full complement of nine passengers was on the prairie flyer, but we can well believe that the new chief executive was given a favored position in the rear seat and no doubt some of the men rode on the deck to provide more comfortable quarters inside for the distinguished passenger.

The driver drew rein in front of a pioneer hotel of the little town of Denver and Governor William Gilpin stepped from the coach. The new Governor was well and favorably known to western pioneers. He had been with Fremont to Colorado and Oregon in 1843. He had stood on the very site of Denver fifteen years before the future capital of Colorado was founded. He had explored western Colorado and crossed Cochetopa Pass in 1844, upon returning from Oregon with reports for Washington. He had been a Major in the Mexican War, had led a campaign against the Indians into the San Juan Mountains in 1846 and one against the Indians along the Santa Fe Trail in 1847-8. He had made many speeches upon the resources of the West and had embodied his prophesies about the future greatness of this region in his book *The Central Gold Region* (1860).

Immediately upon the arrival of the Governor, hand bills were printed and distributed about town announcing the evening reception, for weeks previously a committee had been appointed to plan a celebration and now the plans could be consummated. The story of the reception is told in the *Rocky Mountain News* of the following day:

"There was a large congregation of our citizens assembled in front of the Tremont House, at 7½ P. M. to see and hear Gov. Gilpin, and to welcome him to our Territory and our town. A large number of Denver's fairest ladies were also present, and, like nature's flowers on our mountain's brow, beautified the balcony, creating an ornament and an interest to the lookers up from below. Cannon were firing all the evening. The windows of the hotel were illuminated, an excellent band of music played patriotic airs, and the flag of the Stars and Stripes waved gracefully above them all, making the whole scene not only 'gay and festive,' but grand and glorious indeed.

"Hon H. P. Bennet [who was to become the first Delegate to Congress from Colorado Territory] came forward and introduced Gov. Gilpin to the assemblage, prefacing with a polished and patriotic little speech. . . .

"Gov. Gilpin responded in a somewhat lengthy speech, and in a style and manner which seemed to suit and satisfy all parties present. His remarks were clearly and cautiously composed, not committing himself on anything, yet assuring and inspiring the hearers with the feeling of being interested and impartially devoted towards all the sections and the citizens of our Territory; and of being loyal and sound toward the Union and the Constitution.

"His appearance is pleasing and dignified, and his manner as a speaker betrays the scholar, the thinker and the man of calm judgment and deep discrimination. . . .

"He alluded in a graceful style to the miraculous progress of our, as it were, 'extemporized city of Denver,' to our vast production of gold, which are now familiar to the world. He alluded briefly to the troubled conditions of the Union, and seemed to be confident that the great battle of patriotism versus treason would be amicably adjusted. . . .

"He closed with the following beautiful apostrophe, as near as we could get it:

" 'Hail to America! Land of our birth.

" 'Hail to her magnificent continental domain.

" 'Hail to her liberty-loving sons, and her matrons and maidens.

" 'Hail to her, as she is! May she never become divided or her glory less dim.'

"Three loud cheers were given for the Union, and three for Colorado. After which the Star Spangled Banner was played by the band. Col. B. D. Williams, Marshal Townsend and Gen. Larimer, were afterwards called for and responded in appropriate speeches, after which the large assembly dispersed."

After the speechmaking was over the crowd went to the Apollo Theater where an amateur entertainment "for the benefit of the poor" was being given. Says the pioneer newspaper: "There was a fine audience out to witness the performance of the Amateurs. Gov. Gilpin was present, by invitation. The Amateurs and professional actors acquitted themselves most admirably."

The following Thursday night there was a grand banquet and ball at Golden. The Denver paper reports:

"The Golden City Ball was very largely attended last night, by delegations from this city, Central City, and surrounding sections. There were as many present in the ball-room and at the supper table as attended the grand Masonic ball here last season.

Wm. H. Russell, Esq. [founder of the Pony Express], and his Excellency, the Governor, seemed to enjoy the complimentary affair exceedingly. Govs. Gilpin and Steele [Governor of Jefferson Territory, predecessor of Colorado Territory], Mr. Russell, Cols. Slough [First Regiment of Colorado Volunteers] and Albertson, General Larimer [one of the founders of Denver], Messrs. Purkins, Kirby, Berthoud, [who had discovered Berthoud Pass three weeks previously] were called upon to make speeches throughout the afternoon and evening."—L. R. H.

The Religious Side of Pioneering in Routt County

E. Shelton*

The permanent settlement of Routt County began in the early seventies, although placer mining and trapping had been carried on to some extent for a number of years previously.

In 1875, John V. Farwell, a merchant prince of Chicago, became the owner and proprietor of the placer mines at Hahn's Peak. The enterprise was known then as "The Continental Placer Mining Company." Afterward the settlement became known as "Bugtown." The greater portion of the population of Routt County at this time was in this camp.

In 1876 Mr. Farwell came in person to supervise the work. One of the first things he did was to build a chapel for church services, with a reading room. There was a population at the time there of about seventy-five people. The chapel was supplied with magazines and such newspapers as could be brought in at irregular intervals. At the boarding house they had a dinner bell, and this bell was also used for calling the people together for religious services. The services were conducted by Messrs. Farwell, D. C. Stover and a Mr. Bell. These men were not ordained ministers. They were plain business men, but well versed in Bible lore and well able to preach and to lecture to all who might assemble. When placer mining ceased at "Bugtown" the buildings were removed to the town of Hahn's Peak and used for other purposes. Mr. Farwell never would allow a saloon or a gambling device, or any resort of immoral practices within the limits of the settlement. It is the only mining camp I have ever heard of in Colorado where morality and Christianity had a full and complete control. Mr. Stover organized a Sunday School, or more properly speaking, a

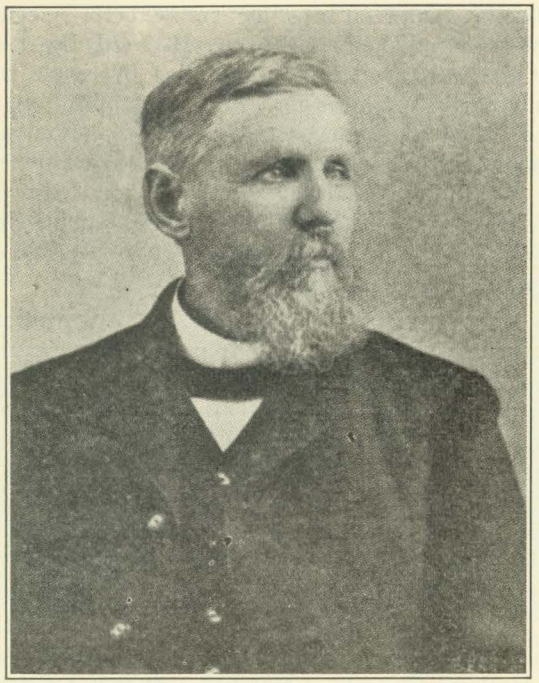
*Mr. Shelton, one of the early settlers of Routt County, wrote this sketch in 1906. It was presented to the State Historical Society for publication by William Shelton of Denver, a son of the writer.—Ed.

Bible class (for there were no children), the first work of the kind in the county. Christian work in this section had thus a beautiful commencement. But in the course of two or three years the property passed into other hands, and for Bible study and Christian services, were substituted the saloon and Sabbath desecration. However, the Hahn' Peak camp has always been, comparatively speaking, a quiet hamlet free from the dance-house and other low resorts so common in such places.

Accompanying Mr. Farwell into Routt County in 1876 was the Rev. Dr. Creary of the M. E. Church, who at the time was Presiding Elder of the Northern District of Colorado. I cannot learn whether he ever preached at "Bugtown" or not, but I presume he did. In the latter part of June, 1876, he came to Steamboat Springs and camped for a few days. The Crawford family was the only family then residing there, or within a radius of many miles. Dr. Creary remained at the Crawford home for a few days, and on Sunday preached, so far as I can learn, the first sermon by a regularly ordained minister in Routt County. Word was sent to each resident within a radius of twenty miles, and everyone came to the service. Dr. Creary is probably the only minister in the state who can boast that he once preached where every resident within a radius of twenty miles of the place of meeting came to the service. His audience consisted of nine persons, all told—five of the Crawford family and four others. Mr. Crawford says: "Although there were so few, Dr. Creary seemed to think they needed, or were entitled to the very best; and he preached as earnestly as though he had an audience of thousands. It was indeed a powerful sermon."

In August of the same year (1876) Mr. Farwell came down from his placer mines and spent a couple of weeks at the Crawford home. While there he gave them many readings and expositions of the scriptures, and afterwards sent them Sunday School literature and hymn books.

The Crawfords are clearly entitled to the honor of being the first Christian family among the permanent settlers in Routt County. Mrs. Crawford tells me: "We left our friends in Missouri in 1873 and came across the plains by wagon. We left our church and home that were so dear to us, to face the hardships of pioneer life. But had we known what was before us, we, no doubt, should have shrunk from the task. In the late fall of 1876 Mrs. Bennett, who had recently joined her husband at the mines at "Bugtown," came with her husband to live with us during the winter, after the mines had closed for the season. The day they arrived I had worked hard ironing our clothing, baking bread, and even fishing, and when Mr. Bennett came in I was sewing—mending up the week's washing, for often I had to put patch upon patch. Mr. Bennett said: 'Mrs. Crawford, don't you know this is Sunday?' I jumped up, letting my sewing fall to the floor. I was frightened to think I had forgotten the day of the week; for in all my life, I had tried to keep the Sabbath day. There was nothing to distinguish one day from another, and it was easy to forget the day of the week. I always did extra work on Saturday, getting read for Sunday. I tried to have a scripture lesson and to read the Bible to the children.



E. SHELTON, ROUTT COUNTY PIONEER
(From a photograph taken in 1906)

"Mrs. Bennett and I decided to have a Christmas tree that year, and to invite all the settlers in to dinner. Besides the four older people, there were three children, two young men two miles above us, and an old German three miles below us on the river. Our tree was necessarily small, for we had but few things to decorate it with. Mrs. Bennett made each child a cornucopia from a large sheet of writing paper and trimmed it with pink ribbon. I made home-made candy to fill them with, and we managed to have something on the tree for every one present. I don't think we ever had

a happier Christmas. Our thoughts went back to other Christmas times, in our old far-away homes. Here we were, shut in by the deep snow, no way to get out except on foot—with snow-shoes—over 150 miles to the nearest settlement. For months at a time I have not heard a woman's voice.

"Passing over many incidents, both pleasant and otherwise, I come to the sad experience of 1879. When I heard of the 'Meeker Massacre,' my first thought was of the strong arm of my husband, who had protected us from the Indians and wild animals so often, but who had gone out to Georgetown for supplies and was 150 miles away. I had no other source of help, but to trust the keeping of myself and little ones to my Heavenly Father. A runner brought the word that the Indians had overcome the soldiers, and were driving the settlers this way. I went into our little dark bedroom and asked in earnest prayer for protection, and no one could pray more earnestly than a mother under such circumstances. But before the Indians reached our settlement their dark ranks were turned back by a fresh relay of Uncle Sam's boys and we were safe. How our hearts went out in gratitude to Him who seeth even the little sparrow when it falls."

In July, 1882, a young Baptist minister from Indiana came to Steamboat Springs with a party of four, seeking health; and during his stay of some weeks he preached several times to an audience of perhaps thirty people. One of these services the writer attended. This was the first sermon I ever heard in Routt County. The meeting was held in the Crawford home. Mr. Crawford says: "There were enough of us then to have some singing, and Mr. Duncan (the minister's name) and his brother, one of the party, being excellent singers, and having with them the newest books, gave us great assistance in our services and with our singing."

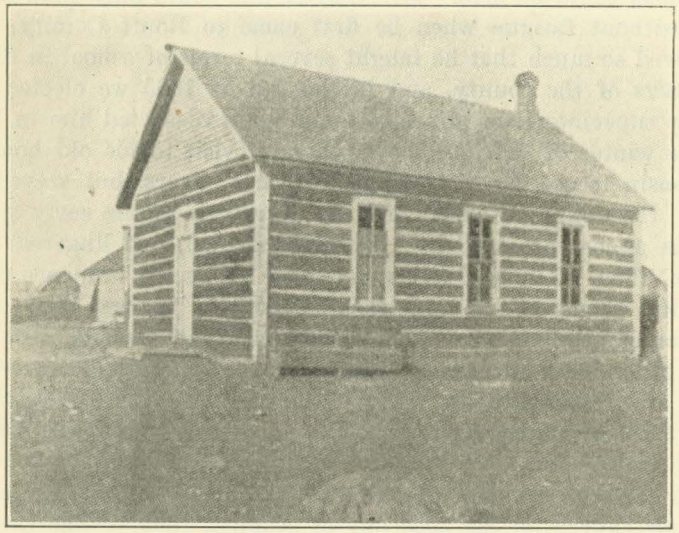
Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Henry Monson were the moving spirits in the building of the first church in the county—now known as Library Hall, in Steamboat Springs. It was built as a Union church to be open for the use of all denominations freely, at their pleasure. This was in 1884. It is now (1906) occupied by the Baptist people of Steamboat Springs.

The first denominational church in the county was organized by the Congregationalists of Steamboat Springs in 1889, and was built largely by the personal labor and efforts of Rev. J. W. Gunn, whom Dr. Campbell introduced to an audience on the Fourth of July, for an oration, as "a son of a gun." Mr. Gunn deserves great credit for his patient work and perseverance in the completion of this house of worship.

I first arrived in Routt County in August, 1881. In April,

1882, my son Byron and I settled in the Hayden valley, and in November, 1883, the balance of my family joined us. One beautiful summer evening in July, 1883—when I was all alone, my son having gone elsewhere—three men drove up to the door and asked permission to camp for the night in our yard. The men were John T. Whyte, Archie McLachan and Professor Ralston of Danville, Kentucky, father of Mrs. B. T. Shelton and Mrs. R. E. Norvel. Permission being granted, they set up their tent, and when they had prepared supper, they asked me to eat with them. This invitation I gladly accepted.

The repast was spread upon a tablecloth, flat upon mother earth, and inside the tent. When they were all seated, Professor



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT HAYDEN

Ralston turned to me and remarked: "We are Christians, and always return thanks, asking God's blessing upon our food. Mr. Whyte will offer the invocation this evening." This he did in a brief but most beautiful and fervid prayer. That was the first time I ever heard a blessing asked at a table in Routt County. I was a total stranger to them; they did not know whether I was an infidel or a believer.

Professor Ralston and Mr. McLachan came to look up locations for homes, but Mr. Whyte was simply traveling with them for his health, as he was nearly dead with the consumption. He gained so rapidly that he concluded to locate here, and the following winter came to live with us and taught our school, which consisted of our

two boys, four of Mr. Reed's family and Cordy Walker, now Mrs. S. A. Adair. During the term of school Mr. Whyte was the principal mover to organize a Sunday School. B. T. Shelton was elected superintendent, and in consequence has the honor of being the first Sunday School superintendent at Hayden. The school was made up of four families, viz: Reeds, Pecks, Walkers and Sheltons.

The school was held at the homes of the patrons in turn. Mrs. Peck was of great service because of her ability to play and sing. She had the only organ in the neighborhood and when the school was not held at her house, if the weather permitted, the organ was loaded into a wagon or upon a sled and taken to the home where the school could be held. Mr. Whyte, who could only walk a few rods without fatigue when he first came to Routt County, soon improved so much that he taught several terms of school in different parts of the county, and in the fall of 1885 we elected him county superintendent of schools, and again re-elected him in 1887. In the winter of '87 and '88 he made a visit to his old home in Wisconsin to see his mother, brother and sisters, but stayed too long. His cough returned and on his return in the early spring he was almost prostrated. He never rallied, but lingered until March, 1889, when he died at our house. But the influence of his beautiful Christian life and teaching, and the impress made upon the young people, with whom he was a great favorite, still live. Some of the most substantial members of the churches of our county today are traceable to Mr. Whyte's Christian example and teaching. I can think of no one person who ever trod the soil of Routt County whose impress has been more potent and far-reaching for good.

At Hayden we kept our Sunday School going until we organized our church on the 29th day of August, 1899. The Congregational minister from Steamboat Springs, Dr. Campbell, and others, very frequently came to preach for us. Among those who were faithful in helping the Sunday School along were Mr. and Mrs. J. G. McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Walker and William Pritchard.

The first Sunday School at Craig (I mean the locality of present Craig) was organized in 1884 by Mr. Whyte, Professor Ralston, Archie McLachen and the Taylor brothers. The McCasslin brothers came to Routt County with J. L. Norvel in 1882, and settled four miles east of Craig. The McCasslin brothers were Christians and fine singers—especially "Bill," the youngest—and during that summer and fall the "boys" about Craig and elsewhere in the locality would collect at the McCasslin home Sunday afternoons to sing. "Bill" would accompany the singing sometimes with his accordion. But sad to relate, some of these young men fell victims of the

saloons and gambling dens which soon were in evidence in the settlements of the county.

The first church organization at Craig was effected by Rev. L. G. Thompson, state evangelist for the Christian denomination, in September, 1891, soon after the arrival of the Teagarden family. The first church building in Craig, costing $3,300, was destroyed by fire Feb. 14, 1901, and wes rebuilt and dedicated November, 1902. In 1900 the Congregationalists organized a church at Craig and now (1906) have a very commodious church building and a parsonage.